

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Ray Campbell, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: None

Guests present: Rusty Post, DOE, Jennifer Molesworth, Reclamation and Town of Twisp Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 23, 2008 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2008 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wehmeyer and passed unanimously.

LEE HATCHER – COUNCIL COORDINATOR CONTRACT – AGENDA ITEM #130

Chairman Bill discussed the status of Lee Hatcher's contract. Secretary Moriarty reported that the issue raised concerning whether Mr. Hatcher was required to carry errors and omission insurance in this position was being reviewed by the Town Attorney Scot DeTro.

OUTREACH – ADS, MY TURN, WEBSITE – AGENDA ITEM #133

Chairman Bill discussed the article that was recently published in the Methow Valley News regarding the MWC. Bill explained that she submitted it and fully intended to have it be in the "My Turn" section of the paper but Editor John Hanron chose to publish it as an article. As a whole those Council Members that had read the article felt it was well written.

TIMELINE – AGENDA ITEM #135

Chairman Bill discussed her revision to the timeline dated December 08 – June 09. Rusty Post shared that he felt the Detailed Implementation Plan timeline was a bit compressed.

Council Member Knott suggested that the Annual Report be added to the timeline. The Council briefly discussed the timing of submitting the annual report, Council Member Knott recommended submitting the Annual Report in April of each year and the Council agreed.

Mr. Post discussed the obligation of Okanogan County to provide a tracking system, based in part on building permits, well logs and number of houses per well.

Chairman Bill will revise the timeline based on this discussion and redistribute the timeline to Council Members.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to accept the proposed timeline as discussed and modified by the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Campbell and passed unanimously.

GRANT ALLOCATION/STATUS – AGENDA ITEM #134

Town Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the current status of the Council's grants. Storms explained that the Phase 4 Grant was broken into two pieces because of the DOE's fiscal year running from July 1 – June 30. The Planning Unit Support Grant will be extended by \$9,000. Mr. Post discussed operational versus capital projects according to the DOE. Post reassured Council that he was confident that the MWC would receive the second portion of the Phase 4 Grant.

Chairman Bill thanked Mr. Post and Clerk/Treasurer Storms for their work on these grants.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND CLOSED BASIN MAPS – AGENDA ITEM #139

Council Member Knott reported that he had not located a closed basin map. After some discussion Council Member Fort and Council Member Knott came to the conclusion that they knew who had the map. Council Member Knott is going to obtain the map and Council Member Fort will find a digitizer to scan the map.

ASPECT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – AGENDA ITEM #140

Chairman Bill discussed the Aspect Consultant Contract negotiations. Bill reported that the budget had been scaled down and that Mr. Hatcher would be used to perform more

duties to reduce costs. Bill shared that the budget was negotiated as Task #1 – Domestic Use Study - \$20,052 and Task #2 - Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) - \$45,156.

Chairman Bill explained that the Recharge Study would be folded into the DIP as a white paper plan for now. Council Member Knott stated that recharge is a hot topic in other WRIA's and that we may be able to wait and watch the outcome from another agencies studies. Knott shared that he knew of one such study being done by a private developer in Cle Elum. Council Member Gehring suggested that we may still want to combine efforts with other WRIA's as we see how this unfolds.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to approve the Aspect Consulting Contract, budget and tasks as revised. The motion was seconded by Council Member Campbell and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL TERMS – AGENDA ITEM #141

Council Member Bill shared that Council Members Williams and Welch's terms will be up in January of 2009. Bill requested that they put in writing if they wish to continue or not continue on the Council prior to the next meeting. Bill shared that nominations would be held at the next meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING DATE – AGENDA ITEM #142

Because of the upcoming holiday the Council discussed the meeting date for December. It was agreed that the meeting would remain on the third Thursday of the month that being December 18, 2008.

USGS WINTER FISH STUDY UPDATE – AGENDA ITEM #143

Lee Hatcher shared points of the meetings he had attended with both the USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation. Some of the issues discussed were: what is being done currently and what they would like to see done regarding water rights transfers; temperature study; studying the topography tying us to current studies being conducted in Yakima; and climate change.

Council Member Knott relayed the enthusiasm the USGS is showing towards a partnership with the MWC. Knott shared that the USGS has already made incredible progress on this issue and are being funded in part. Knott reported that the USGS will write a draft proposal but first would like a detailed list of questions from the MWC. Chairman Bill will develop some questions and email them to the Council for review and additions.

Jenny Molesworth shared some information regarding what the Bureau of Reclamation is doing regarding some of the issues before the MWC. Ms. Molesworth would like to see several of the studies currently being worked on by other agencies pulled together.

Council Member Knott suggested that with this type of study the Town of Twisp would have access to a report with scientific credibility when trying to obtain water rights. Knott shared that with the backing of the MWC, i.e. local support, the USGS may have a better chance of acquiring the grant they are currently seeking.

Council Members Fort and Knott along with Mr. Post briefly discussed: 2 cfs, groundwater, instream flow, transfers – both from Early Winters and other reaches; rule revision, seasonal to year round water use transfers and; storage and recovery.

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to pursue work with the USGS regarding the winter fish study. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary